

such regulations have been issued and are in effect.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than March 6, 2009, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the regulations required by subsection (b)(1).

(d) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that the Secretary of Homeland Security submits the certification described in subsection (b)(2) stating that the final regulations required by subsection (b)(1) have been issued and are in effect.

EXTENDING THE PILOT PROGRAM FOR VOLUNTEER GROUPS TO OBTAIN CRIMINAL HISTORY BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I now ask that we proceed to S. 3605, introduced earlier today by Senator BIDEN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3605) to extend the pilot program for volunteer groups to obtain criminal history background checks.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the bill be read three times, passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, there be no intervening action or debate, and any statements be printed in the RECORD.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3605) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 3605

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Criminal History Background Checks Pilot Extension Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 108(a)(3)(A) of the PROTECT Act (42 U.S.C. 5119a note) is amended by striking "a 66-month" and inserting "a 78-month".

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent morning business be closed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3604

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the motion to proceed to S. 3297 be set aside and that it be in order for the majority leader to move to proceed to a bill relating to the stimulus initiative that was introduced

earlier today and that is at the desk; that the motion be considered as having been made, there be debate by Senator ALLARD for up to 3 minutes, and that there be an opportunity for Senator DEMINT to offer a unanimous consent request, and that upon completion of that time the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to proceed and the motion be subject to an affirmative 60-vote threshold; that if the motion receives 60 affirmative votes, then it be as if cloture had been invoked on the motion and postcloture time would be in effect; that if the motion does not receive an affirmative 60-vote threshold, then it be withdrawn, and the motion to proceed to S. 3297 recur, with the above occurring with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. DEMINT. Reserving the right to object, I understand the majority leader has added into this so-called stimulus package an extension of the ban on oil shale development. I ask consent that his request be modified to include an amendment, which is at the desk, that would authorize and expedite offshore and oil shale exploration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. I say to my good friend, you should quit while you are ahead. I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

Is there an objection to the majority leader's request?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAKING EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008—MOTION TO PROCEED

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to proceed to S. 3604 is considered made by the majority leader.

The Senator from Colorado is recognized for 3 minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the stimulus package. This stimulus package attempts to overturn an oil shale agreement that was reached in the continuing resolution.

This is more of the same shoddy process we have seen from the majority party throughout the entire Congress. If the purpose of this amendment is to stimulate the economy, why would we attempt to place one of the largest potential deposits of oil in the world out of reach?

This provision would maintain the status quo of sending \$700 billion annually to the likes of Hugo Chavez, if we enacted this provision. Not only are we sending American dollars abroad, but we are sending American jobs after

them. It is ironic that something that is supposed to stimulate our economy would, in fact, hurt us.

This Congress has already passed a stimulus proposal as well as a supplemental disaster appropriations bill, and we are going to vote on a \$700 billion Wall Street bailout. We must realize that the United States does not have a blank check to spend unlimited amounts of taxpayer money.

It is premature to consider the stimulus package before we fully know what our other obligations are going to be. This do-nothing and drill-nothing Congress is out of touch with the people who put them in office.

Earlier this week we saw the largest single-day jump in oil prices in history. How did Democrats in Congress react? They attempted to extend the ill-conceived moratorium on oil shale regulations. This moratorium places over 800 billion barrels of potentially recoverable oil out of reach. That is an energy source larger than the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia. Let me repeat that again. We are talking about an energy source larger than the proven reserves of Saudi Arabia.

The Democratic-controlled Congress is completely ignoring the needs of our Nation. It is not only unfortunate but also insulting to the American people who are struggling to pay these high fuel prices at the gas pump.

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, Congress needs to take action to stimulate the slumping economy in ways that create jobs and help average middle-class Americans. So I am pleased that today the Senate is voting on a second economic stimulus package of \$56.2 billion aimed at creating jobs and helping people suffering from higher prices at the pump and at the grocery store, reduced State services, high unemployment, home foreclosures and otherwise feeling the economic pain in their daily lives. We clearly need more economic stimulus, especially in States like Michigan. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill.

Importantly, this package includes a much needed unemployment extension. In August, Michigan's unemployment rate rose from 8.5 percent to 8.9 percent. The Nation's unemployment rate also increased by .4 percent, to 6.1 percent, the highest since 2003. These are very hard economic times. Unemployment rates are rising and since January 2001 we have lost 3.686 million manufacturing jobs nationally and 253,800 manufacturing jobs in Michigan. Since 2000, we have lost more than 450,000 jobs in Michigan across all industries.

The unemployment insurance extension which was signed into law on June 30 as part of the supplemental war appropriations bill included a 13-week extension of UI benefits for all States. Since then, workers who started receiving the 13-week extension in mid-July under the current program will have their benefits cut off starting October 5. This means that an estimated 42,600 workers in Michigan will be cut